

Air Quality Management for Alternatives



March 16, 2006
Los Angeles, California

Overview of this Session

- ◆ **Purposes of the March 14, 2006 Air Quality Working Group (AQWG) Meeting**
- ◆ **Overview of presentations (USBR, State, SSA, researchers)**
- ◆ **Recommendations of the AQWG**
- ◆ **Desired Action by Advisory Committee:**
Confirm AQWG recommendations, and additional assumptions, for allocation of resources for air quality management on exposed playa

Purposes of March 14, 2006 Air Quality Working Group Meeting

- ◆ **Answer questions to support USBR feasibility study:**
 - How much of the exposed area will be emissive?
 - Should water be allocated from inflows for dust control? If so, how much per year?
 - What construction and O&M costs should be allocated for dust control?
- ◆ **Evaluate dust control technology proposed by Salton Sea Authority, and others**
- ◆ **Review assumptions for State's programmatic approach to Air Quality Management, as developed in AQWG meetings**

Overview of Presentations at AQWG Meeting

- ◆ **Need for consistency with existing plans and requirements**
- ◆ **Air agencies – fugitive dust regulations and requirements for Best Available Control Measures (BACM)**
- ◆ **SSA plan to use salt crust**
- ◆ **USBR overview of chemical dust suppressants**
- ◆ **Programmatic approach to Air Quality Management to support ERS and PEIR**
- ◆ **Updates on research by Agrarian, USGS, and DRI**

Salton Sea Air Quality Management
Approaches Must be Consistent with
Existing Mitigation Plans and
Requirements

◆ **Alternatives all must include implementation of the mitigation and monitoring requirements of the IID Water Transfer FEIS/FEIR – the 4 Step Plan:**

1. restrict access
2. conduct research and monitoring
3. if emissive, provide offsets
4. if insufficient offsets, implement feasible dust mitigation measures

Salton Sea Air Quality Management
Approaches Must be Consistent with
BACM and Air District Regulations

As serious PM10 nonattainment areas, SCAQMD and ICAPCD must require implementation of Best Available Control Measures (BACM) to limit emissions from significant sources under their jurisdiction.

For example, ICAPCD Rule 804, Control Measures for Disturbed Open Areas:

- ◆ Apply water or dust suppressants to all unvegetated areas
- ◆ Establish vegetation on all previously disturbed areas
- ◆ Pave, apply and maintain gravel, or apply and maintain chemical stabilizers

Salton Sea Air Quality Management Approaches Must Recognize Uncertainty Regarding Location and Extent of Emissive Areas

- ◆ **Monitor newly exposed playa for stability and emissivity**
- ◆ **Transition areas deemed stable to long-term monitoring**
- ◆ **Implement proven controls on areas that exhibit substantial risk of causing unacceptable air quality impacts**

Toolbox of Possible Dust Control Measures

- ◆ **Options that require water**
 - Stabilization with brine (e.g., enhanced salt crust)
 - Water-efficient vegetation
 - Event-driven irrigation
 - Regular watering
 - Seasonal surface wetting
- ◆ **Options that require minimal water**
 - Gravel cover
 - Chemical stabilizers
 - Tillage
 - Sand fences
 - Moat and row

Recommendations of March 14, 2006 Air Quality Working Group Meeting

- ◆ **Portions of exposed playa areas would likely be emissive; this may be seasonal.**
- ◆ **Inflow water should be allocated for future potential Air Quality Management (AQM) needs.**
- ◆ **Irrigated vegetation should be carried forward as one of the control measures for consideration in the PEIR.**
- ◆ **The “tool box” of dust control measures should remain open. No options should be eliminated from consideration in the PEIR unless proven infeasible or ineffective.**
- ◆ **Assume implementation of water-based control on 50% of playa area; assume other areas either not emissive or controlled by other means.**

Additional Assumptions for Resource Allocation for AQM in the ERS and PEIR (Not Specific Recommendations of AQWG)

- ◆ **Assume allocation of 1 acre foot per acre per year** for 50% of exposed area under each alternative.
- ◆ **Should allocated resources prove to be in excess** of actual AQM needs, re-allocate to other uses in the Ecosystem Restoration program (e.g., habitat).
- ◆ **Should additional resources** be required for AQM, supplemental environmental documentation would likely be required.

Desired Action by Advisory Committee:

- ◆ ***Confirm recommendations of AQWG for allocation of resources for air quality management on exposed playa in the ERS and PEIR***
- ◆ ***Confirm additional assumptions for use in ERS and PEIR***